

From the Editor

This edition of *Military Review* takes an in-depth look at US Army information management (IM) and how information technology (IT) is revolutionizing information operations (IO), psychological operations (PSYOP), public affairs (PA), civil affairs (CA) and deception. In the lead article, Majors James E. Hutton and Arthur N. Tulak discuss PA's emerging role in IM and how media relations and command information are being employed in Bosnia today. The authors posit that PA provides a crucial connection with American and other key audiences while providing commanders a critical outlet for disseminating wide-ranging information to soldiers and civilians in any theater of operations.

Colonel Barry E. Willey describes the often strained relationship between the US military and news media and recommends that we continue to build on our mutual interests and recognize our respective differences, thereby creating trust and confidence and fostering equitable media coverage of the military and greater media access to our soldiers and units.

Next, Major Mark R. Newell proposes that sound IO strategy include PA, CA and PSYOP planning. He reminds us that all aspects of PA must be consolidated within IO to present accurate, balanced and credible information. Likewise, Captain Scott C. Stearns examines how to successfully plan and conduct unit-level PA, highlighting the importance of developing good PA guidance through deliberate planning and reminding military leaders that they must plan for an aggressive, technology-advanced media presence on future battlefields.

Further illustrating IT's impact, Navy Commander Randall G. Bowdish examines the principles for conducting PSYOP and contrasts their potential effect on operations. He posits that PSYOP must be used with skill—within the parameters of their intent and design—and with a full appreciation of their capabilities and limitations. Building on this premise, retired Lieutenant Colonel Thomas K. Adams explains how using standard, doctrinal PSYOP methods and materials promotes positive civil-military relations, building trust and confidence and educating the public on the role of global organizations in the execution of international agreements. He contends that the tense situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina has showcased PSYOP versatility and importance in stabilizing tenuous situations.

Reviewing IM's basic tenets, retired Lieutenant Colonel Craig S. Jones describes *perception management* as those actions that “convey and/or deny selected information and indicators to foreign audiences to influence their emotions, motives and objective reasoning.” He asserts that perception management blends truth projection, operations security, deception and PSYOP.

Then, retired Lieutenant Colonel Timothy L. Thomas suggests that the US Army begin to apply virtual processes in computer simulations, IT use by diplomats in negotiating processes and IT use by militaries to monitor locations or find actual minefields to help prevent conflict. He terms this concept *virtual peacemaking*, using IT's virtual processes for information gathering, analysis and communication for simulations and training exercises as well as real-world scenarios involving diplomats, mediators, military leaders and others to resolve issues *before* conflict occurs.

Finally, Colonel Jon H. Moilanen discusses lessons learned from *PRAIRIE WARRIOR (PW) 98* and how *PW* continues to serve as the US Army Command and General Staff College (CGSC) capstone exercise. He discusses why CGSC is the Army's premier university for tactical- and operational-level warfare studies and how *PW* is linked to the Army's Battle Command Training Program and Advanced Warfighting Experiments. Noting that *PW* is shaping Force XXI and the officers who will lead it, he offers insights about this year's exercise focus.

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